

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 02225 081419Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEAE-00 OMB-01

SWF-02 DRC-01 /176 W
----- 005493

R 081200Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7089

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, UY

SUBJ: SIXTY THOUSAND TON MEAT SALE

REF: A) MVD 1712, B) MVD 1538, C) MVD 1445

1. SUMMARY: BANK SOURCES REVEAL THAT NO TRACE OF ALLEGED LETTERS OF CREDIT TOTALLING US\$85 MILLION FOR PURCHASE OF 60,000 MT OF URUGUAYAN BEEF CAN BE FOUND. FURTHER DETAILS INDICATE THAT BUYER IS PROBABLY A SPECULATOR WHO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO FIND BUYERS FOR THE BEEF. FALSE STATEMENTS ABOUT FINANCING THE PURCHASE RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PURCHASER. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ORIGIN OF ALLEGED MEAT SALE WAS A VISIT BY S.G. FASSOULIS AROUND APRIL OF THIS YEAR WHO WAS TRYING TO SELL PETROLEUM TO EMSTATE AGENCY. AT THAT TIME THE GOU WAS VERY ANXIOUS ABOUT SURPLUS MEAT STOCKS AND FASSOULIS EVIDENTLY SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO BROKER THE MEAT. HE OBTAINED AN OPTION OF 60,000 TONS AT A PRICE OF US\$85 MILLION IN THE NAME OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE CORPORATION, 24 W. 42ND STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 02225 081419Z

3. THE NATIONAL MEAT BOARD (INAC) THROUGH THE CENTRAL BANK ASKED

THE FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK TO CHECK THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE NEW YORK FIRM. CITIBANK DID SO AND DISCOVERED THAT THE ONLY RECORD OF THE FIRM WAS A TELEPHONE IN ITS NAME INSTALLED IN A STORE, COLOR-LITHOGRAPHICS LOCATED AT 24 W. 42ND. THE OWNER OF THE STORE, MR. BLAZER IS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE MEAT TRANSACTION. THIS INFORMATION WAS PASSED TO INAC AND THE CENTRAL BANK AND CITIBANK ADVISED CAUTION BEFORE THE MEAT SALE WAS ANNOUNCED ON MAY 24.

4. A LAWYER REPRESENTING MR. FASSOULIS ADVISED CITIBANK OFFICE HERE THAT LETTERS OF CREDIT WOULD BE OPENED BY SECURITY NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF SOUTHGATE, MICHIGAN, AND GUARANTEED BY BANKER'S TRUST, BARCLAYS, AND BANK OF AMERICA. THE CITIBANK MANAGER DOES NOT BELIEVE THE FIRST BANK EXISTS AND THE GUARANTEEING BANKS HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE TRANSACTIONS. WE CONFIRMED WITH BANK OF AMERICA THAT IT COULD FIND NO TRACE OF THE LETTER OF CREDITS.

5. A CURIOUS SIDELIGHT OF THE TRANSACTION IS THAT A SHIP ARRIVED IN MVD TO LOAD A PORTION OF THE PURCHASE BUT INAC WOULD NOT LOAD UNTIL A L/C ARRIVED. THE SHIP IS REPORTEDLY STILL IN THE HARBOR.

6. RECENTLY INAC REPORTED THAT FOR 1974 FIRM SALES OF 97,000 TONS OF MEAT AND NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE 60,000 TON TRANSACTION. GUSTAVO SAN MARTIN, MANAGER OF INAC, HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO NEW YORK SUPPOSEDLY TO CLARIFY THE TRANSACTION.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND/OR OTHER AGENCIES MAY HAVE OR DEVELOP ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE CORPORATION AND MESSRS. FASSOULIS AND BLAZER. THE EMBASSY MAY BE ASKED BY THE GOU FOR INFORMATION ON THE PURCHASERS IF THE TRANSACTION FALLS THROUGH, PARTICULARLY IF ANY LEGAL COMMITMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. THERE MAY ALSO BE ADVERSE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IF THIS OCCURS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF INAC.

SIRACUSA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, MEATS, LETTERS OF CREDIT, BUSINESS FIRMS, BUSINESS REPUTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MONTEV02225
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740217-0297
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740864/aaaaccxx.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MVD 1712, B) MVD 1538, C) MVD 144, 5
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIXTY THOUSAND TON MEAT SALE
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, BBAK, UY, US, INAC, INT COMMERCE CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005